



Last Updated: 03/09/2022

Phase II of the Virginia Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL) Program for Pharmacy Services - April 2004

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the six new drug classes that will be included in the Virginia Medicaid's Preferred Drug List (PDL) Program effective April 1, 2004 (Phase II). As you are aware, the PDL is a list of preferred drugs organized by therapeutic class for which the Medicaid program will allow payment without requiring Prior Authorization (PA). In the designated therapeutic classes, drug products that do not appear on the PDL will be subject to PA. Since there are provisions for a 72-hour supply of necessary medications, this initiative will not cause an individual to be left without an appropriate drug therapy.

The PDL is applicable to the Medicaid, MEDALLION, and FAMIS-Plus (formerly Medicaid for Children) fee-for-service populations. The PDL **does not** apply to Managed Care Organizations (MCO) or FAMIS individuals. DMAS implemented the PDL program to provide clinically effective drugs to its clients at the best available price. Your assistance with this program is critical to its success.

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) implemented Phase I of the PDL in January 2004, with 13 therapeutic drug classes. In April 2004, Phase II of the PDL will be implemented with six additional therapeutic drug classes. Phase III of the PDL will be implemented in July 2004, with additional therapeutic drug classes.

Therapeutic classes for the April 2004, PDL Phase II implementation:

- Oral Hypoglycemics
 - Second Generation Sulfonylureas
 - Alpha Glucosidase Inhibitors



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- Biguanide Combinations
- Hypoglycemic, Biguanide Type
- Meglitinides
- Thiazolidinediones (TZDs)
- Leukotriene Modifiers
- **Analgesic- NSAIDS (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)**
- **Serotonin Receptor Agonists**
- **Onychomycosis Antifungals**
- **Bisphosphonates for osteoporosis**

To access the complete list of the pharmaceutical products included on the Virginia Preferred Drug List please visit <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-home.htm> or <http://virginia.fhsc.com>.

Prior Authorization Process

Phase II of the PDL program will be implemented on April 1, 2004, beginning with informational messages ("soft edits") displaying to the pharmacists. This will allow pharmacists the opportunity to inform the client of the PA requirement on the next request. Full PA requirements ("hard edits") will be phased-in for the therapeutic drug classes on May 3rd and 10th. The PDL



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phase-in schedule for the Phase II therapeutic drug classes is attached to this memo.

A message indicating that a drug requires PA will display at Point-of-Sale (POS) when a non-preferred drug is dispensed. Pharmacist should contact the patient's provider requesting them to initiate the PA process. PAs can be initiated by written, faxed, or telephone request. Prescribers can initiate PA requests by letter, by **faxing** the attached form to **800-932-6651**, or by contacting the First Health Services' Clinical Call Center at **800-932-6648**. PA requests by fax or mail will be responded to within 24 hours of receipt. A copy of the PA request form is attached and also available at <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-home.htm> or at <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. **The PDL criteria for PA purposes is also available on the website.**

For information regarding the appeals process please visit www.dmas.virginia.gov. Preferred Drug List (PDL) - 72 Hour Supply Processing

The PDL Program provides for a process where the pharmacist may dispense a 72-Hour Supply of a non-preferred, prescribed medication if the physician is not available to consult with the pharmacist, including after hours, weekends, holidays, and the pharmacist, in his professional judgment consistent with current standards of practice, feels that the patient's health would be compromised without the benefit of the drug. The 72-Hour Supply will require a phone call by

the pharmacy provider to **First Health Services Corporation (FHSC) at 800-932-6648** for processing.

The patient will be charged a co-payment for this 72-Hour Supply (partial fill). However, a co-payment will not be charged for the completion fill. The prescription must be processed as a "partial" and "completion" fill.

For unit of use drugs (i.e., inhalers, drops, etc.), the entire unit should be



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dispensed and appropriate action taken to prevent similar situations in the future.

Preferred Drug List (PDL)-72-Hour Supply Dispensing Fee Process

Pharmacy providers are entitled to an additional \$3.75 dispensing fee when filling the completion of a 72-hour supply prescription for a non-preferred drug. To receive the additional dispensing fee, the pharmacist must submit the 72-hour supply as a partial fill, and when submitting the claim for the completion fill, enter **"03"** in the **"Level of Service"** (data element 418-DI) field. The additional \$3.75 dispensing fee is **ONLY** available (**one time per prescription**) to the pharmacist after dispensing the completion fill of a non-preferred drug when a partial (72-Hour Supply) prescription was previously filled.

Any questions regarding the PDL process can be referred to First Health Services (FHSC) Corporation at 800-932-6648.

Additional information and Provider Manual updates will be available as necessary. Comments regarding this program may be submitted via email to pdlinput@dmas.virginia.gov.

Medicaid, MEDALLION, and FAMIS-Plus fee-for-service individuals with questions about the PDL should be directed to the First Health Patient HelpLine at 800-932-3923.

"PDL/PRIOR AUTHORIZATION HELPLINE"

The First Health Clinical Call Center can be reached at **800-932-6648**, to answer your questions regarding the PDL. Requests for Prior Authorization can be initiated by letter, by faxing the enclosed form to **800-932-6651**, or by contacting the First Health Services' Clinical Call Center at **800-932-6648**. PA requests also can be mailed to:



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**First Health Services
Corporation 4300 Cox
Road**

Glen Allen, VA 23060

ATTN: MAP Department/VA Medicaid

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option to access information regarding Medicaid eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification information. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 800-884-9730 or 800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its provider manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov (***please note the new DMAS website address***). Refer to the Provider Column to find Medicaid and SLH provider manuals or click on "Medicaid Memos to Providers" to view Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet, or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order these by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.